

An introduction to a series of papers describing new species from the Wongan Hills and surrounding district

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Eight undescribed plant species which have come to light as a result of botanical studies of the Wongan Hills and surrounding district (Kenneally, 1977a), are described and illustrated in a series of papers in the present issue of *Nuytsia*.

As all of these species are geographically quite restricted (Table 1) and are either vulnerable or endangered (Rye, 1980), they are being published now in order to provide names for the purposes of flora protection.

Table 1. Rare and Geographically Restricted Species occurring within 20 km of Wongan Hills Townsite (modified from Rye, 1980).

Species	Approx. Range (km)	Endemic to Wongan Hills Range	Classification			
			VR	R	VGR	GR
* <i>Acacia botrydion</i> Maslin	15	+	—	—	+	—
<i>A. denticulosa</i> F. Muell.	150	—	—	—	—	+
<i>A. dura</i> Benth.	30	—	—	—	+	—
<i>A. semicircularis</i> Maiden and Blakely	9	+	—	+	+	—
<i>A. sp. aff. obovata</i> Benth. (Maslin 4550)	T	+	+	—	+	—
* <i>A. pharangites</i> Maslin	T	+	+	—	+	—
<i>Boronia ericifolia</i> Benth.	90	—	—	—	—	+
<i>Calytrix stowardii</i> S. Moore	T	?	+	—	+	—
<i>Clematis sp. aff. microphylla</i> DC. (Kenneally 5361)	9	+	—	—	+	—
* <i>Conostylis wonganensis</i> S. D. Hopper	40	—	—	+	+	—
<i>Daviesia euphorbioides</i> Benth.	1	—	+	—	+	—
* <i>D. spiralis</i> Crisp	5	+	—	?	+	—
<i>Dryandra comosa</i> Meisn.	11	+	—	—	+	—
<i>D. pulchella</i> Meisn.	8	+	—	—	+	—
<i>Eremophila sargentii</i> (S. Moore) Chinnock	70	—	—	—	—	+
* <i>E. ternifolia</i> Chinnock	T	+	+	—	+	—
* <i>Eriostemon wonganensis</i> Paul G. Wilson	T	+	+	—	+	—
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> Benth.	300	—	—	+	—	—
<i>Gastrolobium glaucum</i> C. A. Gardner	T	—	+	—	+	—
<i>G. hamulosum</i> Meisn.	110	—	—	+	—	+
<i>Melaleuca websteri</i> S. Moore	80	—	—	—	—	+
* <i>Microcorys eremophiloides</i> Kenneally	7	+	—	+	+	—
* <i>Rhagodia acicularis</i> Paul G. Wilson	T	+	—	+	+	—
<i>Stylidium coroniforme</i> R. Erickson and Willis	T	+	+	—	+	—
<i>Tetradlea retrorsa</i> J. Thompson	220	—	—	?	#	—
<i>Wurmbea humilis</i> Macfarlane	T	—	+	—	+	—

- * Species described as new in this issue of *Nuytsia*
- # Species known only from two widely separated areas
- T Species known only from type locality (or a single locality)
- VR Very Rare—having less than a few hundred reproductively mature plants in natural populations
- R Rare—less than a few thousand reproductively mature plants in natural populations
- VGR Very Geographically Restricted—having a maximum geographical range of less than 50 km
- GR Geographically Restricted—maximum geographical range less than 160 km

line joining the 320 m contour line has been incorporated to exclude areas of sandplain which intrude over the laterite. The vegetation in this zone is transitional between sandplain and laterite. *The Wongan Hills* thus defined comprise a series of laterite-capped mesas generally trending north-south, dissected by numerous steep gullies in which exposures of greenstone and granite can be seen (Figure 1). They cover an area of 3 216 ha and are the largest single area of natural vegetation remaining in the northern wheatbelt.

The Wongan Hills District corresponds to the Guangan Vegetation System as defined by Beard (1979, 1980). It occupies all of the area shown in Figure 1 as far west as a line running roughly north and south through Lake Hinds. The District covering some 500 000 ha is characterized to a very large extent by residual sandplain of which yellow sand, often containing gravel, is the most common. The lateritised Wongan Hills support a vegetation system different to that of the Guangan System and thus form an enclave within that System (Beard, 1979).

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